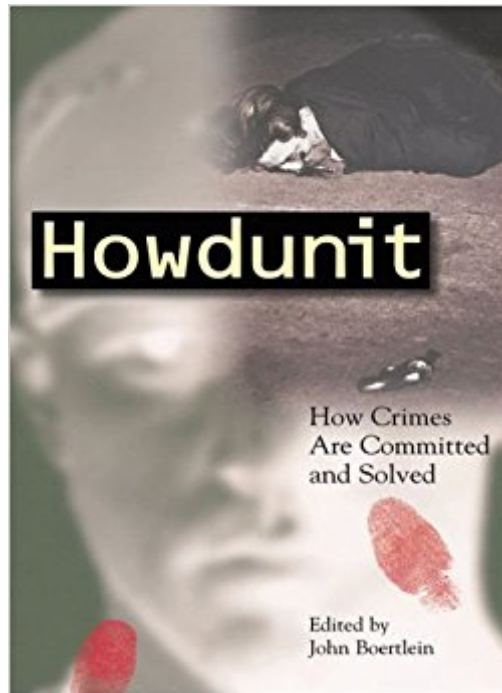




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Howdunit: How Crimes Are Committed And Solved



Synopsis

The ultimate reference on the dark world of criminals and those who oppose them! Readers will learn how crimes are plotted, committed, investigated and solved. This hefty reference includes chapters from nine of the books in the "Howdunit" crime series, as well as thirteen new chapters on key topics, such as property crime, gangs and the drug trade. Boertlein also offers a huge glossary of crime words and phrases, plenty of photographs, and new chapter sections that give writers the sensory details and real-life perspective they need to write not only accurately, but vividly about crime. In the final section of the book, readers will find prompts and advice to guide them in plotting, committing and solving their own fictional crimes. They can create floor plans of crime scenes, follow leads and catch their criminals. Using the information in this book - and any other Howdunits they own - readers can put what they've learned into action and on the page.

Book Information

Series: Howdunit

Paperback: 404 pages

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Customer Reviews

Since, happily, most writers don't have direct experience with the gory details of drug enforcement, forensic psychology, or hate crimes, they'll need to get the nitty-gritty for their screenplays and novels from a reliable source. This is where Howdunit comes in. Culled from a 14-volume series on crime writing, the book is a one-stop-shopping reference guide for writers in the genre or for those interested in learning the background of real police work. Beginning with the fundamentals of modern cop life and the criminal justice system, Howdunit elaborates on murder variations (bizarre,

mass, serial), forensic medicine and autopsies, crime-scene searches and surveillance, vice-related crimes, and special problems such as gangs and paramilitary groups. Stark illustrations are included where appropriate, such as black-and-white photos of Nazi paraphernalia and basic police gear, as well as simple anatomical drawings that are designed to illustrate common medical adjectives like lateral and posterior. Most chapters end with a short list of points to cover for character or plot development, turning each subject into a possible writing exercise. The editor, John Boertlein, spent 20 years on the police force, and he clearly knows his stuff. Each section is precisely detailed and extremely straightforward; tools, procedures, and personality profiles are recorded in a way that leaves little room for misinterpretation. If you've got your plot twists and big con all planned out, studying this book is sure to provide the final touches. --Jill Lightner

John Boertlein has been in law enforcement for twenty years, serving as a police officer, undercover officer, and investigator for the police forces in Cincinnati, Ohio and Covington, Kentucky. He has taught at the Ohio Police Academy and worked as a police recruiter. He has also written technical and procedural documents for the Cincinnati Police Division.

I just started reading this book, it seems to be written well and has a lot of information.

'Howdunit' is the consummate crime writers dictionary. It is incredibly useful whether you write from your criminals point of view, or the view of law enforcement. Gives all but the story and dialogue. Chock full of ways to commit and, or solve.

"Howdunit" is an exceptional tool for the mystery and suspense writer. The information on investigative procedure, profiling, forensic psychology and so on, will assist the fiction writer with the reference material needed to make his or her story factual. It is imperative for the screenwriter or novelist not to just brilliantly structure a story but to add "realism" in his or her craft. Howdunit has helped me to affix genuineness to my storytelling by presenting the pure facts about crime, law enforcement techniques and the criminal justice system. I personally enjoyed the segment on the con. Howdunit provides a concise glimpse of the con's master art. This makes for good drama within the novel and screenplay. (It will also help you to spot one in real life!) I firmly recommend "Howdunit" and the complete "Howdunit" series for the writer who is serious about producing quality material. Excellent choice of books. Kudos!!

Does your novel contain a crime? Surveillance? Child molesters? From terrorists to street gangs, "Howdunit: How Crimes Are Committed and Solved" has complete, accurate police techniques and procedures for writers of every genre. This guide is a master compilation of the Howdunit crime reference series. You'll find 29 chapters, 20 from 14 volumes and nine brand new chapters. Begin your own fictional investigation into these sample chapters: * An Overview of Murder * How the Body is Handled * The Autopsy * Crime Tools Guide * Crime Scene Search * Interviews and Interrogations * Profiling the Criminal * Prostitution * Tailing. Instead of spending all of your time interviewing police officials, simply add this book to your reference library. Everything you need to add realism to your novel is contained in one volume. Passing on this book would simply be a crime.

Howdunit is one of a series of books for the serious mystery writer. The book outlines mayhem, police investigation procedures, and anything a budding - or experienced - mystery writer may need to know to make a story authentic. There is nothing worse than reading, or worse yet, writing, a story which has a clever plot, good characterization, but is faulty as far as procedure goes. With this book as a guide your stories will do justice to your writing abilities and your ability to research your topic. Barbara E. Pugh, Ph.D.

I recently wrote a story involving a police detective, and got numerous comments from my writer's group that there were factual errors about how he went about solving the case. Having read this book, I found almost all of those problems and was able to make the story much more realistic. The chapters on Forensic Psychology, Criminal Profiling, and "Bizarre Murders" provide much more than the "just the facts" approach I was expecting from the book. I highly recommend it to anyone who considers having a crime, a criminal, or a cop in one of their stories.

This is a good book for writers. It's interesting to read and covers a wide range of subjects. However, because it covers such a wide range of subjects, it doesn't give a lot of detail about each one. So if you need to know a great deal of information about one particular thing then you'd need another book devoted only to the subject you need to know about. But if you only need to know a little bit about a lot of different subjects, then this is the book you should buy.

While Howdunit provides good, accurate information on police procedure, including chapters on forensics, weapons and the tangled legal system, its information is, at the best, very basic. As an avid reader of mysteries and thrillers, as well as an occasional writer, I found that I was already

familiar with the vast majority of entries. I would recommend this title for the first-time writer of crime fiction, especially those whose reading tastes runs to different genres, but if you've already cut your teeth on authors like Michael Connelly, Jeffery Deaver, Dennis Lehane or others, save your money.

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